

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Number 121.

Tuesday 9th October, 1962.



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"THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN BILLERICAY."

COUNCIL APPROVE LAKE MEADOWS DAM PROJECT

The Finance Committee and Parks Committee of Basildon Council have approved a £11,000 scheme for strengthening the large earth dam at the western end of Billericay Lake in Lake Meadows Park.

The scheme involves the regrading of the downstream face of the dam to an even slope of 1 in $2\frac{1}{2}$ and the provision of counterfort drains and toe drains together with a new weir overflow and cascade. The work will involve the removal of most of the trees on the slope of the dam. While work is in progress the footpath along the top of the dam, beside the lake, will be closed, and a temporary alternative path will be provided behind the dam.

The present earth dam was constructed with the rest of the Lake during the 1880's to relieve a local depression. Some years ago the Council had to concrete the lake shore on the dam side to prevent the gradual erosion of the dam by the water.

In November 1960, Council workmen had to keep an all-night vigil over the Lake when, after heavy rains, it threatened to spill over or burst its banks, and flood the nearby Knightbridge Walk estate, which is at a much lower level than the Lake.

In February, 1961, the Council were told that there had been evidence of surface movement on the dam, and a more detailed survey had revealed that protective works would be necessary if the stability of the dam was to be maintained. Trial borings were undertaken, and £1,700 was spent on culverting the outfall stream from the Lake.

THE COMMON MARKET - BILLERICAY'S M.P. IS IN FAVOUR OF JOINING.

Speeches by Mr. Edward Gardner Q.C., M.P. for Billericay, during his recent tour of his constituency, indicate that he is strongly in favour of Britain joining the Common Market. The object of Mr. Gardner's tour was to meet his constituents, and to assess their reaction to the Government's policy on the Common Market.

Speaking to women Conservatives during his tour Mr. Gardner accused the Labour Party of splitting disastrously over the Common Market, and said that Mr. Gaitskell had abandoned his pretence of responsible leadership and had joined the old men of England. Like them he was too fearful of the future. Only Mr. Macmillan had shown the qualities of leadership which the present moment demanded. The Liberals confessed a reckless indifference to reality. Of course there were a few old men on the back benches of the Conservative Party but they could be counted on the fingers of one hand, and their influence was infinitesimal. Provided that the safeguards to which the Conservatives were pledged were achieved, Mr. Gardner considered that the overwhelming majority of Conservatives in the House of Commons would vote in favour of Britain joining the Common Market.

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CAN YOU HELP?

In response to the appeal in their last press report, Billericay Old Peoples' Welfare Committee have welcomed three more Visitors to the Committee. This means that more pensioners with problems can be quickly helped, and kept in regular contact with a visitor. More visitors are particularly needed in the South Green, Tye Common, Central, and Ramsden Bellhouse areas

Free tutorial classes are being held for Visitors and those interested in Old Peoples Welfare on Wednesdays the 17th and 25th October from 9.45 a.m. to 1.0 p.m. A few vacancies remain for those wishing to apply.

One of the Committee's big problems is the transport of disabled pensioners to such functions as the annual party or weekday tea parties. Anyone with a car available for short periods on odd occasions should apply to Mrs. Barr, Secretary of the Committee.

The Committee is trying to arrange small tea parties for three or four handicapped pensioners at a time. Please let the Committee know if you would like to offer hospitality in your home - the Committee will provide guests and transport.

A retired hairdresser is willing to cut the hair of gentlemen pensioners in their homes at a concessional cost. Details from the Secretary.

Available free of charge to pensioners are the following items - four dining chairs, a gas stove, and a three-foot wardrobe.

The Committee wish to bring to public notice their Hallowe'en Dance, which is being held on October 27th. This is the first dance which the Committee has run in aid of their funds. Tickets are 7/6d from the Secretary.

Any person interested in further details of the Old People's Welfare Committee should contact Mrs. Barr, the Secretary, at 273, Mountnessing Road (Phone 522).

NORSEY WOOD AGREEMENT.

Arrangements have now been made by the Forestry Commission with the owner of Norsey Wood for it to be managed under an approved Woodlands Scheme. It is proposed to clear a scrub area some 33 acres in extent and replant with Pure Corsican Pine Copper Beech, and American Oak, along the rides during the period 1963 to 1967.

SOUTH GREEN PLANNING APPEAL.

An appeal by A.C. Wootton & Co. Ltd. against the refusal of Basildon Council to give planning permission for the erection of 18 bungalows on the south side of Highfield Road, South Green, Billericay, will be heard before Mr. A.D. Owen F.R.I.C.S., M.I. Mun. E. at the Council Offices, Basildon, on Thursday 18th October.

The Council refused permission because the site is outside any area allocated for development on the approved County Development Plan. The land allocated on this Plan was as much as could be allocated having regard to the capacity of existing services, and in particular the limited assured water supply to South Essex. Highfield Road was unmade and having regard to its inadequate width and vertical alignment any further development along the road would aggravate the present unsatisfactory conditions and must be considered premature until such time as the road is made up.

ROAD WILL PASS BILLERICAY & STOCK

A new road from Basildon to replace the B.1007, and which bypasses Billericay and Stock, is included in the latest main road plans of the Essex County Council Highways Committee. However, the new road will not be built before the period 1981 to 1991!

One major improvement in the Billericay area to be carried out in the next ten years is the re-alignment of the Billericay-Wickford (Southend) Road between Barleylands and White's Bridge. This stretch of road includes a number of very sharp and dangerous bends, and the re-alignment will eliminate these.

RESIDENTS COMPLAIN ABOUT NOISE FROM FACTORIES.

At the recent meeting of Basildon Health Committee a number of complaints from people living in Cromwell Avenue and Lake Avenue, Billericay, about noise from factories on the nearby Billericay Industrial Estate were considered. Following a report on the measures used to reduce noise, it was decided to keep the matter under review. The "Observer" understands that the noise most complained of is a high-pitched whine.

NEW CHURCH APPEAL LAUNCHED.

The Public Appeal for funds for the erection of a new Church in Perry Street, Billericay, was launched at the Harvest Supper of Billericay Parish Church on Monday. The speakers were the Venerable Arch-Deacon of Southend, the Rev. Welch, the Vicar, the Rev. D. Greaves, Church Warden, Mr. J. Baucher, and Sub-Warden, Mr. R. Jackson.

It was stressed that the need for an adequate Church building in the Perry Street area was indeed very urgent. It was the duty of the whole Parish to contribute towards the cost. At festivals the present 30-year old 'temporary' building was not able to accommodate the whole of the congregation. Sunday School work was also suffering from the lack of space, as there were far more children eager to attend, than there was space for.

The Vicar appealed to local industrialists to help in raising funds. The approximate cost of the new Church was given at £20,000. The Rev. Welch gave his assurance that the diocese would help financially once the scheme got under way (over £800 has already been raised).

The supper of Tomato Soup, Ham and Tonge Salad, Fruit, Trifle, and biscuits and cheese was followed by a Scottish Dancing Display by the Roxborough Display Team, followed by a singing game, the evening being brought to a close by two old Harvest hymns.

COUNCIL ARE "SYMPATHETIC".

In reply to a letter from Billericay Residents' Association Basildon Council have stated that they are "sympathetic" with the Association's desire for the provision of more small open spaces and play areas in the Billericay area. On the Town Map no specific provision was made for additional playgrounds, although there was provision for an additional open space at Norsey Woods. When the County Development Plan was reviewed consideration would be given to the provision of extra playground facilities in Billericay.

In their letter the Residents had pointed out that Lake Meadows was not very accessible to people living at the opposite end of the town.

"STAY AT HOME" DAY FOR BILLERICAY PEOPLE.

Last Wednesday was "stay at home" day for most Billericay workers, because of the one-day national rail strike. With 95% of the population commuters to London, most Billericay workers were faced with a car journey, or a day at home. Most seem to have taken the latter course.

Some trains on Tuesday evening were cancelled, as stock had to be in the right position for Thursday morning. The strike was called by the National Union of Railwaymen in protest against the large-scale railway workshop redundancies and the way the question had been handled by Mr. Marples and Dr. Beeching.

3,000 MAGAZINES WERE GIVEN AWAY.

Over 3,000 copies of the new magazine of Billericay Town Sports Club - "Up The Town" - have been given away to local residents in the last few weeks. The object of the magazine is to let people know about the activities of the club, and it is intended to publish an issue every month.

The main article is entitled "What Can We Offer?" and deals with the facilities offered to members by the Club. These include a pavilion and sports ground, and Football and Table Tennis sections, a Netball Section being in the process of formation. Local residents are urged to come along and support the Club at their home matches.

The magazine also includes two pages of letters from club members, all mainly concerned with the lack of support at the club's matches. Also included is a Quiz Competition, with a Premium Bond offered as a prize.

HORTICULTURAL QUIZ.

An Inter-Society Horticultural Quiz, organised by the Basildon Society, and held at Laindon last Wednesday week drew teams of four from Basildon, Billericay, Dunton and Laindon Horticultural Societies. First place went to Billericay with the team of Messrs. L. Dove, A. Stewart, G. Versey, and L. Wyatt who gained 38 points, Basildon being second with 37 points. Question Master was Mr. Blanchard of Southend Horticultural Society.

EDITORIAL

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:-

"Billericay Observer",
143, Perry Street,
Billericay, Essex.

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

Since the last issue the remaining forty copies of the "Mills of Billericay", No.2 in the Billericay History Series, have been sold making a total sale to date of 550 copies. It is anticipated that a further 75 copies will be printed in the near future.

The last few copies of the 6th Impression of "Early Billericay" were also sold, and a 7th Impression of 60 copies was issued. Of these sixty copies, twenty have been sold, making a total sale to date of 665 copies.

Both booklets are priced at 6d (3d postage) and may be obtained from me.

----- The Editor.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

SALES OF WORK ETC. - AUTUMN SALE, Billericay Recreation Rooms, Sat. 13th October, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in aid of 2nd Billericay Scouts
RUMMAGE SALE, Sat. 20th October, Rose Hall, Chapel Street, 2.15 p.m., organised by Billericay Operatic Society
JUMBLE & PRODUCE SALE Saturday 20th October at 2.30 p.m. in the W.I. Hall, organised by Billericay Local Labour Party.

TALKS & LECTURES - "Pest Control" at the W.I. Hall, Monday October 15th, organised by Billericay Horticultural Society.

BASILDON COUNCIL - Next Council Meeting, Thursday 11th October, 6.50 p.m., Wickford Junior School, Market Road, Wickford.

GENERAL MEETING - Billericay British Legion A.G.M., Wednesday 24th October, 8 p.m., Rose Hall, Chapel Street. Ex-Service Men and Women will be welcomed.

DANCE - Buttsbury Residents Assn., Friday 19th October, Archer Hall, 8 p.m. to Midnight, 5/6d, dancing to "The Modernists". Tickets from Mr. Clark, 293, Moutnessing Road, committee members, or at the door.

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Mrs. Stott, 10, Uplands Close.

Page 4.

FOR THE OLD FOLK

Billericay O.A.P.

On the 26th September there was an excellent attendance. On sick members it was reported that Mrs. Joseph was slowly improving, Mrs. Wakeling was about the same, Mrs. Walters, Mrs. Dalgarno, and Mr. Pierce were welcomed back after their absence through illness. All sick members were wished a speedy recovery to good health. Birthday honours were accorded Mrs. Wiltshire. An impromptu Concert was given by members. Those taking part were Mrs. Dawkins with piano solos, Mrs. Plumridge and Mrs. Horne with Songs, Mr. Plumridge and Mrs. C. Clark with Duets, Mr. Riches and Mr. Lewis with a Duet with Mrs. Lewis at the Piano, Mr. Wiltshire with Songs. Mr. Dawkins was the Compere and Mrs. Dawkins was the Pianist. Tea hostesses were Mesdames E. Dawkins, Cheshire, and Jeuitt.

On the 3rd October there was an excellent attendance, Mr. Joseph being in the Chair. With regard to sick members it was stated that Mrs. Joseph had greatly improved but was still in Hospital, and Mrs. Wakeling was now out of Hospital and much improved. The Secretary told members that next Wednesday would be Nomination Day, when they were to put in all nominations for Officers and Committee for the A.G.M. on October 24th. He also gave out details of a Theatre Outing to be held on December 8th. Members entertained themselves. Those taking part were Mrs. Horne, Mr. Joseph, and Mr. Wiltshire with Songs, Mr. Dawkins and Mr. Wiltshire played a Mandolin and Banjo Duet, and Mr. Jeuitt brought along his gramophone and played a number of records. Mrs. Dawkins was the Pianist. Tea hostesses were Mesdames E. Dawkins, Cheshire, Jeuitt, and Golder.

Buttsbury Monday Club.

A very pleasant evening was spent on September 24th, when Mr. Hawes gave a talk on "Eyes". Two cakes given by Mrs. Rutherford and Mrs. Leswell were raffled. On Monday 1st October an enjoyable evening was spent, a necklace given by Mrs. Smith being raffled. Meetings will be held in future on Saturday afternoons from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. An afternoon mystery tour has been arranged by Mr. Bond (Secretary) for October 16th.

Are you interested in Billericay history? If you are, have you bought your copy of the following two titles in the Billericay History Series:-

No.1 - "EARLY BILLERICAY" by W.P. Grant. The story of Billericay from the Stone Age to Roman times, including a map of Roman Billericay. Price 6d, 9d by post.

No.2 - "THE MILLS OF BILLERICAY" by W.P. Grant. A full history of all known Mills in the Billericay area, how a Mill works, and the amusing story of Billericay's famous "ghastly miller", Thos. Wood. Two maps, and drawing of Billericay Mill. Price 6d, 9d by post.

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REPAIRS TO WATCHES & CLOCKS.

"BILLERICAY IN THE PAST" by Wynford Grant.

Petitions from Billericay inhabitants relating to the repair of Billericay Chapel (now the Parish Church) are preserved among the Essex Quarter Session records at Chelmsford.

This was first founded as a Chantry or Chapel of Ease in 1342, on the same site as the modern Church. Previously, local people had had to worship at Great Burstead Church, two miles away, Billericay being included in the Parish of Great Burstead. However, flooding in the Winter made this journey "at best noisome, and at the worst impossible", as an old writer said. Billericay was also used as an overnight stopping place for pilgrims on the way from the north to the tomb of St. Thomas a Beckett at Canterbury, via the age-old Tilbury crossing, and these pilgrims liked to worship every evening. This factor, and the rapidly growing population of Billericay, resulted in the erection of the Chapel.

The Church was rebuilt and enlarged in 1490, and in 1651 local people petitioned the Quarter Sessions for power to impose a rate "to finish repairs on the Chappel."

In 1773 a further petition was forwarded to the Quarter Sessions. This stated that the Chapel was "a very ancient structure and in very great decay", and was much too small to serve the population of the district, which was growing. The Chapel was in every respect a separate district from the mother church of Great Burstead. Besides paying tythes to Great Burstead, the people of Billericay had to pay for their own minister by voluntary subscription. The greater majority of the inhabitants seldom went to Great Burstead anyway, as it was two miles distant. It was impossible to make the Billericay Chapel convenient without taking it down, and rebuilding it. It was estimated that the cost of this would be £1,650-13s7d over and besides the old materials. The inhabitants of Billericay had been approached, but they were unable to raise the required sum among themselves. There was no power to make a rate, and the money could not be raised among the people of the town by voluntary subscription, because most of the principal householders were Roman Catholic or Nonconformist. The petition concludes by asking for powers to impose a rate to raise money to repair the Chapel.

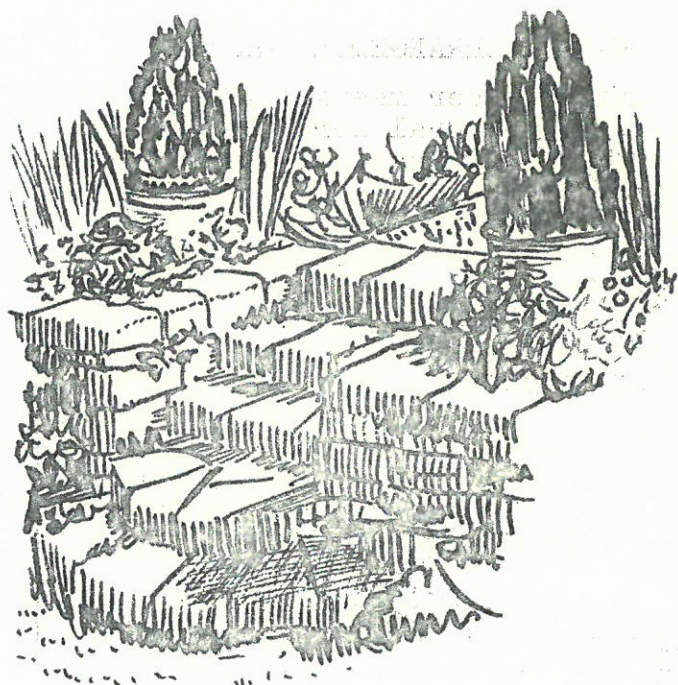
The petition seems to have had some effect, for in 1775 the Chapel was rebuilt. The Chapel was once again rebuilt in 1840, but it was not until 1860 that Billericay became a separate Parish. Although it had been larger than Great Burstead since the Middle Ages, it remained in Great Burstead Parish. This may seem strange, but when Great Burstead Church was first built (probably in the 7th century) Billericay did not exist as a separate community, and it was therefore included in Great Burstead. Although there were Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Roman settlements in Billericay, the Saxons and Danes chose to build their settlement at Burstead.

Further extensions and improvements were completed at Billericay Church not so long ago, to deal with the growing congregation. All that remains of the old Chapel is the rather fine Tudor brick tower, and the bell. Although re-cast, this still bears the stamp "Galfridus de Heldemate, 1347", and the bell which calls Billericay people to Church today, is the same bell that called pilgrims in the 14th century to worship, and opened Billericay Market.

It now seems that the old Parish of Great Burstead may one day be split into four - Great Burstead Parish covering the Burstead and South Green area, Billericay Parish covering the central area, and two new parishes centred on the new Churches to be erected in Perry Street and at Outwood Common.

BILLERICAY TOP TEN - Based on sales of records at Stanwood Radio Ltd., High Street, Billericay. Last time's positions in brackets.

1. F.11494 - Telstar, The Tornados (5).
2. RCA.1303 - She's Not You, Elvis Presley (1).
3. HLU.9511 - It Might As Well Rain Until September, Carole King (-)
4. DB.4886 - It'll Be Me (Cliff Richard) (3)
5. POP.1060 - Sheila (Tommy Roe) (-)
6. HL.9851 - Loco Motion (Little Eva) (-)
7. POP.1064 - You Don't Know Me (Ray Charles) (-).
8. R.4930 - Don't That Beat All (Adam Faith) (4).
9. DB.4856 - I Remember You (Frank Ifield) (7).
10. DB.4870 - Guitar Tango (The Shadows) (6).



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Wednesday October 24th
at 8 p.m.

In the Rose Hall,
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All Ex-Service Men and Women
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Billericay Floral Arrangement Group.

JUMBLE SALE.

Monday October 18th.

at the W.I. Hall

Doors open 2 p.m.

Admission ---- 3d.

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FLORAL ARRANGEMENT GROUP.

The October meeting of the Billericay Floral Arrangement Group was held on October 3rd at the W.I. Hall when Mrs. Starling (who won the Premier award at the National Society's Summer Show this year) demonstrated some delightful "Line & Design" arrangements. Mrs. J. Ryan a founder member and first Chairman of the Club announced her retirement as she is leaving Billericay in the near future. The members thanked her for all the work she had done for the Club, and presented her with a flower picture for her new home.

Members Arrangement was "Autumn Gold", a frontal arrangement for the hall. Advanced Class: 1. Mrs. Cocks, 2. Mrs. Lee, 3. Mrs. Shedal, Novice Class: 1. Miss Murray, 2. Mrs. Cousins.

CHILDRENS' LEAGUE OF PITY.

A Rummage Sale organised by the Childrens' League of Pity (Junior branch of N.S.P.C.C.) at the Recreation Rooms on 3rd October raised the sum of £7-1-4d. This will help with the costs of the Party to be held at the Rooms on October 20th, when children who have contributed in excess of 10/- (in their savings box) will be presented with their medals. Various entertainments will be provided, and Miss K. Rowledge from Head Office will be present.

The League would like to thank the following people for their help with the Rummage Sale: Mesdames Knightbridge, Ireland, Bird, Wilby, Woodbridge, Taylor, Neule, Hopkins, Lodwick, and Councillor Mrs. Lunt, also Mr. Bird Senior.

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LETTERS have been held over to the
next issue.

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Buttsbury Residents' Association

DANCE

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Buffet.

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PLANS FOR NEW CHURCH GO AHEAD.

Plans for a new Church to serve the Outwood Common/Sunnymede area of Billericay are going ahead. A site has been selected, overlooking the two estates, at the top of Salesbury Drive on the Outwood Common Estate. Leaflets about the new Church are in the process of distribution, and visitors will call in the next few weeks to explain the scheme to Residents.

The cost of the new Church will be £14,000, £10,000 of which will be found by Chelmsford Diocese. The remaining £4,000 will have to be raised by voluntary effort.

Weekly services are at present held in Sunnymede Primary School.

REMOVAL OF PROFITS TAX ON BUILDING SOCIETIES URGED BY LIBERALS.

The removal of the Profits Tax on Building Societies is urged in the latest Information Bulletin of Billericay Constituency Liberal Association.

The article states; "The attitude of the Tory Government towards young married couples and their housing problems is deplorable, especially after all the election promises they made, and obviously do not intend to keep. Their attitude is totally alien to the Liberal view that everyone should be given the chance to own a piece of Britain. How can we achieve a property-owning democracy when the Government make it more difficult to acquire reasonable mortgage facilities by their petty restrictions and lack of foresight?"

The article states that the removal of the Profits Tax on Building Societies would only cost the Exchequer £3 million a year, but it would start mortgage rates on an immediate downward trend.

According to the Bulletin there is a possibility of Liberal leader Jo Grimmond visiting Billericay constituency later in the year.

COUNCIL TURN DOWN RESIDENTS REQUEST

Basildon Council have turned down a request by Billericay Residents' Association for the erection of a fence round South Green Recreation Ground, and the installation of new playground equipment, to replace that removed by the Council with the hedge round the Ground for reasons of safety. The request was made at a meeting between the Council and the Residents, the outcome of over a year of argument, and two public meetings.

ROUND AND ABOUT by "WANDERER"

When Billericay Industrial Estate was first planned we were assured that there would be no noise nuisance from the factories. This has not turned out to be the case. People living near the Estate have had to complain to Basildon Council's Health Department about the noise from the factories.

And what did the Council's Health Committee decide to do? Merely, to keep the matter "under review".

This decision displays a remarkable lack of concern for the people who are suffering from this noise. Far more concrete action is called for. Firm steps should be taken to see that the noises complained about cease. It is the duty of the Health Committee to press this matter with the industrialists, not just keep it "under review".

The plan for a new road from Basildon, to by-pass Billericay and Stock is a good one. It is a pity that we have to wait until the 1980's before work is started. The road will be justified in the next few years, with the increased traffic from Basildon and the Purfleet tunnel. Instead of spending money messing about with roads round the back of the High Street, widening Chapel Street etc. the Council and County Council should concentrate all their resources on this proposed new road, so that work starts in the next five years.

This road would solve all Billericay's traffic problems. The proposed Inner Relief Road (Chapel Street - new road behind High Street - Norsey Road - Stock Road) will not. It will just add to the problems and difficulties. The Chapel Street/London Road junction will never be safe for large volumes of traffic, however much money you spend on it. Norsey Viaduct is also highly unsuitable for heavy traffic.

In its present form the Inner Relief Road scheme is highly unsuitable for the job of solving Billericay's traffic problems. It will always be dangerous, and will never be able to deal with the increasing volume of traffic. Far better concentrate on the long-term scene to by-pass Stock and Billericay.

---- "Wanderer".